

VILLAGE OF FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS

VILLAGE COUNCIL

MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*
ROBERT M. SCHWARZBART, *Chairman*
LEONARD J. GRANT, *Vice Chairman*
ELIZABETH DEMETRA HARRIS, *Secretary*
ALVAN M. MORRIS, D.D.S., *Treasurer*
JOHN MERTENS, *Parliamentarian*
CLARA M. LOVETT, *Historian*
JULIAN P. MANSFIELD, *Village Manager*
LESLIE STRATHMANN, *Village Manager 1987-1996*

4433 SOUTH PARK AVENUE
CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815

Phone: 301-656-2797

Fax: 301-907-3922

Email: info@friendshipheightsmd.gov

Website: www.friendshipheightsmd.gov



APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC SESSION FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING March 9, 2015

ATTENDEES:

Melanie Rose White, Mayor; Robert Schwarzbart, Chairman; Leonard J. Grant, Vice Chairman; Elizabeth Demetra Harris, Secretary; John Mertens, Parliamentarian; Clara Lovett, Historian; Julian Mansfield, Village Manager; Robert Shapiro, Assistant Village Manager; and 12 residents.

CALL TO ORDER:

At 7:30 p.m. Judge Schwarzbart called the Village Council Meeting to order. He reported that the Council hoped to present pictures and information on the proposed playground equipment at this meeting. However, some Council members questioned the equipment selections by A. Morton Thomas, our playground engineers. Staff submitted questions to the engineers and requested other equipment options. This information was not received in time for tonight's meeting. Hopefully, the Council can make a presentation at the April meeting. He noted that discussion of the playground is not on the agenda for tonight.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS TO AND FROM COUNCIL:

Ms. Barbara G. Tauben (Highland House West) commended the Council for posting the minutes of the monthly Council meetings on the website. She also requested that the monthly Council meeting agenda and the treasurer's report be included in the web postings and/or printed in the newsletter.

Ms. Tauben asked for the status and distribution date of the Village Centennial history book. Ms. White stated that the printing of the book was delayed because of her schedule. However, it is very close to being ready for printing. She noted that the distribution date and sale price of the Centennial book will be discussed at the next meeting.

Ms. Lynn Heilbrunn (4550 N. Park) stated the March newsletter article regarding the upcoming election of Council officers should have provided more details on the election process: how to become a candidate, number of vacancies, term limits, etc. In her opinion, there would be more interest and involvement in the elections if the residents were better informed. Discussion ensued.

Members of the Council stated: much of the information referenced in the discussion was provided to the residents, and elections are always advertised well in advance. For several years there has been a lack of interest from residents for volunteering to serve on the Council. All current seats will be open for the upcoming election. The term is two years. The deadline for candidates to submit their names is April 3, which would be too late for the April newsletter. Some of the suggestions discussed tonight could be implemented in the next election. All residents were encouraged to run for office and/or volunteer at the Center.

ANOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. White made the following announcements:

Al Morris resigned from the Village Council last month. I know all my Council colleagues join me in thanking Al for his 12 years of dedicated service on the Council.

The Council's Capital Improvements Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 17, at 5:30 p.m. at the Village Center. This meeting will be open to the public.

Please join us for Community Day on Monday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m., to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the Village Center. Check the April newsletter for more details.

Because of our Community Day celebration on the 13th, the April Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14.

A shredding truck will return to the Village on Tuesday, May 5, from 5 to 7 p.m. Village residents are invited to take advantage of this free service.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Ms. Harris presented the minutes for the Council public session held on February 9, 2015 and recommended approval.

- (R) Ms. Harris moved; Ms. White seconded, that the Council public session minutes for the meeting held on February 9, 2015 be approved. The motion carried. (6-0-0)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. White presented the financial summary for the period ending February 28, 2015.

Final Public Hearing on Proposed Budget and tax rate for FY 2016:
(Summary of highlights of oral testimony)

Judge Schwarzbart stated that this is the second and final hearing on the Proposed FY 2016 Budget.

Judge Schwarzbart opened the floor for comments from the public on the Proposed Budget for FY 2016. The budget is based on a proposed tax rate of 4 cents per \$100 assessed property value, which maintains the current rate. The public is invited to submit written or verbal comments as recognized by the chair.

Persons representing organizations will have five minutes to speak; individuals will have three minutes to speak. No one may cede time to another speaker.

Ms. Barbara G. Tauben (Highland House West) expressed concern that once again the Proposed FY 2016 Budget does not include funds for storm drain maintenance. The community could benefit from cleaning the catch basins to prevent debris and litter from entering our water ways and especially the Chesapeake Bay. She urged the Council to consider this very important issue for the FY 2017 Budget.

- (R) Ms. Lovett moved; Ms. Harris seconded, to approve the Proposed 2016 Budget. Discussion ensued. The motion carried. (6-0-0)
- (R) Ms. White moved; Mr. Grant seconded, to approve the Proposed 2016 tax rate of 4 cents per \$100 assessed property value. The motion carried. (6-0-0)

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion/vote on selection of election judges for Village Council election:
Mr. Mansfield stated that in accordance with our charter, the Council must appoint judges for the Council election on May 11. Ms. White has nominated the

following individuals for Council consideration: County Council member Roger Berliner (Chief Judge); Sue Byrnes, from 4701 Willard; William Corey, from 4620 N. Park; and Ron Irion, from Highland House. All of these individuals have agreed to serve if appointed by the Council.

Mr. Mansfield noted that the League of Women Voters will provide judges to count the ballots. The four nominees are citizen judges who will be present to oversee the count.

- (R) Mr. Mertens moved; Ms. Lovett seconded, to approve Roger Berliner (Chief Judge); Sue Byrnes, from 4701 Willard; William Corey, from 4620 N. Park; and Ron Irion, from Highland House to serve as judges for the Village of Friendship Heights Council election on May 11, 2015. The motion carried. (6-0-0)**

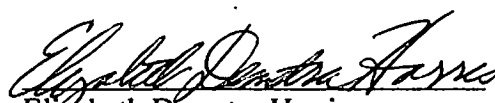
Discussion/vote on fountain and irrigation maintenance contract: Mr. Mansfield reported that staff advertised for fountain and irrigation bids. The only bid received was from Dave Culler of the Culler Irrigation Company, our contractor for many years. Culler's contract proposal is for three years with a fixed price at his current contract cost for this year which is \$12,062.50 per year. The contract covers maintenance of the fountain and irrigation system in Humphrey Park and the irrigation at 4602 North Park Avenue. Dave has done a great job here for a long time.

- (R) Ms. White moved; Ms. Harris seconded, to approve the contract from Dave Culler of Culler Irrigation Company, in the amount of \$12,062.50 per year, to provide maintenance of the fountain and irrigation system in Humphrey Park, the irrigation system in Willoughby Park and the irrigation system at 4602 North Park Avenue in the Village of Friendship Heights, Chevy Chase, MD. The motion carried. (6-0-0)**

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Council, Ms. White moved, Ms. Harris seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. The motion carried. (6-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth Demetra Harris
Secretary